

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EURE-00 ACDA-07 AGR-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DLOS-06

DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FEAE-00 FMC-01 TRSE-00

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST

USNMR SHAPE

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFAE

COMSIXTHFLT

DIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 8394

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, GR, TU

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO THE AEGEAN DISPUTE

REF: ATHENS 8304

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1. GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS' ADDRESS YESTERDAY TO THE

SECURITY COUNCIL AND REPORTS THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER WILL MEET WITH BOTH THE GREEK AND TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTERS ARE THE FOCAL POINTS OF THE NEWS TODAY (AUGUST 13). BITSIOS' STRESS DURING HIS ADDRESS TO THE SC ON THE NEED TO AVOID AN "AEGEAN TRAGEDY" PROVIDED THE SUBSTANCE FOR THE HEADLINES OF MANY NEWSPAPERS. THE TEXT OF HIS SPEECH TO THE COUNCIL WAS REPRODUCED IN FULL BY THE MEDIA, THE MAJORITY OF WHICH ENDORSED HIS PRESENTATION. HOWEVER, ULTRA CONSERVATIVE ESTIA COMPLAINED THAT IT WAS TOO "LOW KEY" AND WAS CRITICAL OF HIS MENTION OF "TURKISH RIGHTS" IN THE AEGEAN. MANY NEWSPAPERS HIGHLIGHTED, BUT ESSENTIALLY WITHOUT COMMENT, THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER WILL BECOME A MEDIATOR IN THE DISPUTE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, ALTHOUGH BOTH ESTIA AND LEFTIST, ANTI-AMERICAN ELEFTHEROTYPIA STRONGLY CRITICIZED INVOLVEMENT BY THE SECRETARY.

2. SECONDARY TREATMENT WAS ACCORDED BY THE PRESS TO INSPECTION VISITS TO VARIOUS MILITARY UNITS BY ARMED FORCES COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF ARBOUZIS AND ARMY CHIEF DAVOS, WITH EMPHASIS ON GREEK MILITARY PREPAREDNESS. A REPORT ON A WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE CONCERNING THE "LOWERNG OF TEMPERATURE" IN THE GREEK-TURKISH DISPUTE, AND THE TEXT OF BITSIOS' PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER HIS ADDRESS TO THE SC, INCLUDING THE QUESTION BY A TURKISH JOURNALIST CITING ALLEGED SIXTHFLT FLEET PHOTOGRAPHS SHOWING OFFENSIVE WEAPONS ON THE GREEK ISLANDS NEAR TURKEY, WERE PROMINENT ITEMS.

3. THE AFTERNOON PRESS WIDELY REPORTED THE DECISION OF NATO NOT TO DISCUSS THE AEGEAN DISPUTE, AND GAVE CREDIT TO DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL THAT THE DISCUSSION DID NOT TAKE PLACE. THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE WOULD TAKE UP THE GREEK PETITION AT THE BEGINNING OF NEXT WEEK RECEIVED WIDE ATTENTION. THIS WAS ALSO THE CASE WITH STATEMENTS BY TURKISH PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL WARNING THE GREEK SIDE TO AVOID INCREASING TENSION, AND STATING THAT SISMIK I WOULD RETURN TO THE AEGEAN FOR A THIRD PHASE AFTER IT PUTS INTO PORT TO BE RESUPPLIED. ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE OTHER HAND, THE STATEMENT BY FORMER TURKISH PREMIER ECEVIT CALLING FOR A SUMMIT BETWEEN THE GREEK AND TURKISH PRIME MINISTERS, WHICH WAS REPORTED BRIEFLY AND WITHOUT COMMENT IN YESTERDAY'S PRESS, WENT TOTALLY UNNOTICED TODAY.

4. THE PRESS CONFERENCE OF PASOK LEADER ANDREAS PAPANDREOU ALSO RECEIVED COVERAGE. PAPANDREOU AGAIN

ATTACKED THE GOVERNMENT FOR TAKING THE AEGEAN ISSUE TO
THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND ADVOCATED A MORE FORCEFUL
APPROACH BY THE GOG. HE CHARGED TURKEY SOUGHT CO-
SOVEREIGNTY IN THE AEGEAN AND SAID THE PROPER ACTION
WITH REGARD TO THE SISMIK I WAS TO STOP THE OPERATIONS
OR TO SEIZE OR SINK THE SHIP.

KUBISCH

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